

# Energy-level pinning and the 0.7 spin state in one dimension: GaAs quantum wires studied using finite-bias spectroscopy

A C Graham, D L Sawkey, M Pepper, M Y Simmons\*, and D A Ritchie  
*Cavendish Laboratory, Madingley Road, Cambridge, CB3 0HE, United Kingdom*  
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We study the effects of electron-electron interactions on the energy levels of GaAs quantum wires using finite-bias spectroscopy. We probe the energy spectrum at zero magnetic field, and at crossings of opposite-spin-levels in high in-plane magnetic field,  $B$ . Our results constitute direct evidence that spin-up (higher energy) levels pin to the chemical potential,  $\mu$ , as they populate. We also show that spin-up and spin-down levels abruptly rearrange at the crossing in a manner resembling the magnetic phase transitions predicted to occur at crossings of Landau levels. This rearranging and pinning of subbands provides a phenomenological explanation for the 0.7 structure, a 1D nanomagnetic state, and its high- $B$  variants.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Whereas many collective electron phenomena in two- and zero-dimensional electron systems are well understood, such as the fractional quantum Hall effect and Kondo effect, this cannot be said of one-dimensional electron systems (1DES). As these may conceivably form the building-blocks of quantum circuits, it is important that their properties are understood. Theoretically, an interacting 1DES can be treated as a Luttinger-Liquid (LL) [1]; although tunnelling experiments in parallel semiconductor QWs [2] and carbon nanotubes [3] have shown evidence of Luttinger liquid behaviour, many QW characteristics cannot at present be understood within the Luttinger liquid framework. In particular, a spin-related phenomenon known as the *0.7 structure* [4, 5, 6] has long resisted quantitative explanation.

According to non-interacting electron theories, the conductance of a semiconductor 1DES is quantized at  $N(2e^2/h)$ , where  $N$  1D modes lie below the Fermi energy. In real systems however, an additional plateau occurs at around  $0.7 \times 2e^2/h$  — the 0.7 structure. This deceptively simple feature has attracted much experimental [4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14] and theoretical [15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21] interest, because its unusual magnetic field ( $B$ ) and temperature ( $T$ ) dependences [4, 10, 11, 12] imply that complex electron spin interactions strongly influence the behaviour of even the simplest quantum devices.

The 0.7 structure evolves continuously into the lowest energy spin-down mode with increasing  $B$ , implying that it is a type of spontaneously spin-polarised state. Whereas the 0.7 structure occurs at the  $B = 0$  crossing of the  $1\uparrow$  and  $1\downarrow$  subbands, related conductance structures called ‘analogs’ have recently been discovered at the crossing of the  $1\uparrow$  and  $2\downarrow$  subbands in high in-plane  $B$  [7]. In the region of the analogs, energy levels of opposite spin abruptly rearrange as they populate, forming a completely spin-polarised state. This is thought to be driven by the resulting exchange energy enhancement [20, 22] and resembles the magnetic phase transitions predicted

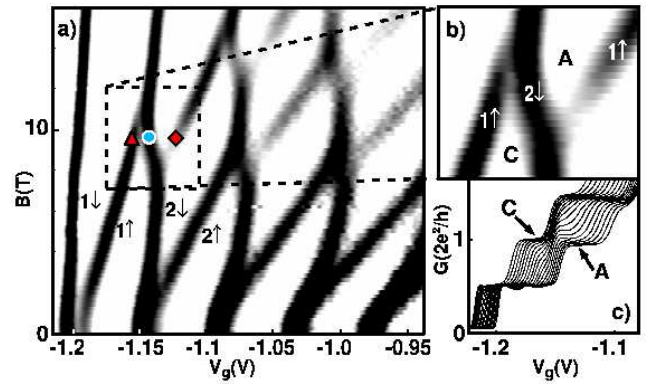


FIG. 1: (Color online) Evolution and crossings of 1D subbands in  $B$ . (a) Grey-scale diagram of  $dG/dV_g$  as a function of  $V_g$  for  $B = 0$  to 16 T in increments of 0.2 T. White represents conductance plateaux, and dark lines correspond to a subband populating. Right-moving (left-moving) lines are higher energy spin-up (lower energy spin-down) subbands. We refer to the three symbols later in the paper. (b) A close-up of the  $1\uparrow$  and  $2\downarrow$  crossing. The trajectory of  $1\uparrow$  is discontinuous, with its two parts overlapping in  $B$ . A and C indicate the non-quantized analog and complement structure respectively, shown in (c) Conductance traces from 5.8 T (left) to 13 T, covering the range of figure (b). The analog A (a variant of the 0.7 structure) and the complement C are indicated.

to occur at crossings of Landau levels [23]. In this paper, we provide direct evidence from DC-bias spectroscopy [24, 25], that the 0.7 structure and analogs are caused by the highest energy spin-up subband pinning to the chemical potential,  $\mu$ , as predicted by Kristensen and Bruus [10], together with an abrupt rearranging of spin-up and spin-down subbands.

## II. SAMPLES AND MEASUREMENT

Our samples consist of split-gate devices defined by electron beam lithography on a Hall bar etched from a high mobility GaAs/Al<sub>0.33</sub>Ga<sub>1-0.33</sub>As heterostructure. The two-dimensional electron gas lies 292 nm below the surface of the heterostructure. All the 1DES samples used in this work have a lithographic length of 0.4  $\mu\text{m}$  and a width of 0.7  $\mu\text{m}$ . We used an in-plane  $B$  aligned perpendicular to the current direction. We have however observed the same behaviour for in-plane parallel  $B$ . By monitoring the Hall voltage, the out-of-plane misalignment was measured to be  $0.3^\circ$ . The measurement temperature was 50 mK.

## III. TWO NON-QUANTIZED CONDUCTANCE STRUCTURES RELATE TO REARRANGING OF SUBBANDS AT CROSSINGS

The rearranging of the  $1\uparrow$  and  $2\downarrow$  subbands in the crossing region is inferred from the data in fig. 1(a), which exhibits multiple crossings of spin-split 1D subbands. The data can be thought of as an energy diagram, where the black lines represent subbands. The close-up of the crossing of  $1\uparrow$  and  $2\downarrow$  in fig. 1(b) shows that the trajectory of  $1\uparrow$  is discontinuous at the crossing with the two parts of  $1\uparrow$  overlapping in  $B$ . I.e., at around  $B = 10$  T, going from left to right in gate-voltage,  $V_g$ ,  $1\uparrow$  populates *twice*, at two different  $V_g$ . Thus, the 1DES energy spectrum is not fixed, but rearranges as the subbands populate, an effect thought to be due to e-e interactions [20, 22, 23].

Two plateau regions, **A** and **C** in fig. 1(b), are formed between the overlapping parts of  $1\uparrow$ , on the right and left of  $2\downarrow$ . Although **A** and **C** are non-quantized conductance structures (fig. 1(c)), they are separated by a constant quantized conductance of  $\sim 0.5(2e^2/h)$ . **A**, the *0.7 analog*, has similar properties to the 0.7 structure [4, 7]; in fig. 1(b) the analog region **A** at  $B = 10$  T and above is equivalent to the 0.7 structure region near  $B = 0$ . However, the region below 10 T has no equivalent at  $B = 0$  — one cannot investigate  $|B| < 0$ . In this region (fig. 1(b)), we find a new non-quantized feature, **C**, called a *complement* structure (see fig. 1(c)). As we will show, the DC-bias characteristics of the complement, analog and 0.7 structure provide evidence that they are all caused by pinning of a spin-up subband together with an abrupt drop in energy of a spin-down subband.

## IV. BIAS SPECTROSCOPY OF CROSSINGS OF SPIN SUBBANDS IN HIGH MAGNETIC FIELDS

DC-bias ( $V_{ds}$ ) data taken at 5 T (fig. 2(a)) gives insight into  $V_{ds}$  characteristics at the crossing and  $B = 0$ ; the 5 T data is simpler than these regimes, because the spin subbands are far apart in energy. At  $V_{ds} = 0$  in fig. 2(a), each subband gives one dark feature as it intercepts  $\mu$ . Each

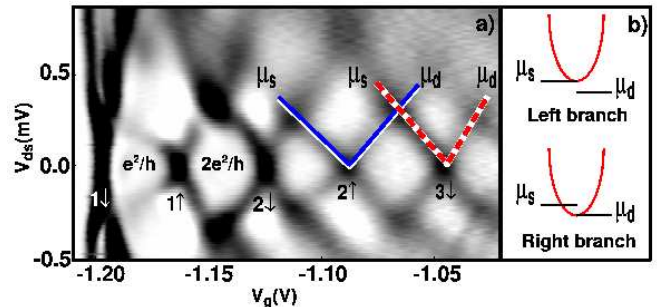


FIG. 2: (Color online) (a) Grey-scale of  $dG/dV_g$  data at 5 T as a function of DC-bias  $V_{ds}$  and  $V_g$ . Labels indicate whether a branch corresponds to a subband intercepting  $\mu_s$  or  $\mu_d$ , as shown in (b). A left (right) branch in  $+V_{ds}$  corresponds to a subband intercepting the source (drain) chemical potential  $\mu_s = \mu + eV_{ds}/2$  ( $\mu_d = \mu - eV_{ds}/2$ ).

of these features splits into a V-shaped pair of branches at  $V_{ds} > 0$  because  $\mu$  splits in two,  $\mu_s$  ( $\mu_d$ ) for the source (drain). Left (right) branches are due to subbands intercepting  $\mu_s$  ( $\mu_d$ ) — see fig. 2(b). The  $+V_{ds}$  branches associated with  $2\uparrow$  are marked with a solid blue V-shape and the branches associated with  $3\downarrow$  are marked with a dashed red V-shape (n.b. here, and below, the term ‘V-shape’ refers to two branch features in the  $+V_{ds}$  part of the data). In this 5 T data, spin-up features in particular are generally consistent with the non-interacting  $V_{ds}$  model [24] in which *both branches* of the V-shape are present at any  $B$  because the subband must pass through both  $\mu_s$  and  $\mu_d$ .

In contrast, in the  $V_{ds}$  data at  $B = 0$  (figs. 3(a) and (b)), there are strong deviations from the expected non-interacting behaviour. Moving from 5 T (fig. 2(a)) to  $B = 0$  (fig. 3(a) and (b)), the  $e^2/h$  plateau evolves into the 0.7 structure. The V-shaped  $1\uparrow$  feature which separates the  $e^2/h$  plateau from the  $2e^2/h$  plateau moves to the left, forming the grey line marked  $\gamma$ , that separates the 0.7 structure from the  $2e^2/h$  plateau. However,  $\gamma$  is no longer a V-shape as it has no left branch — it is just a single right-moving branch (fig. 3(b) and (c)); the expected but ‘missing’ left branch is represented by a dashed line in the schematic diagram in fig. 3(c).  $\gamma$  relates to the  $1\uparrow$  subband, so at  $B = 0$  although we can detect  $1\uparrow$  intercepting  $\mu_d$  — the right-moving branch  $\gamma$  — the branch indicating that  $1\uparrow$  has intercepted  $\mu_s$  is missing. We will show that this unexpected behaviour is direct evidence that the 0.7 structure is caused by pinning of the  $1\uparrow$  subband as it populates.

Branches are also missing in the  $V_{ds}$  data at the crossing (fig. 3(d)), in the region of the analog and complement — the inset to fig. 3(d) shows conductance at the crossing for  $V_{ds} = 0$ . Fig. 3(e) gives a schematic of the main features of the crossing [33]. Again, compare fig. 3(d) to the 5 T data in fig. 2(a); the  $1\uparrow$  V-shape at 5 T which separates the  $e^2/h$  and  $2e^2/h$  plateaux has at 9 T shifted

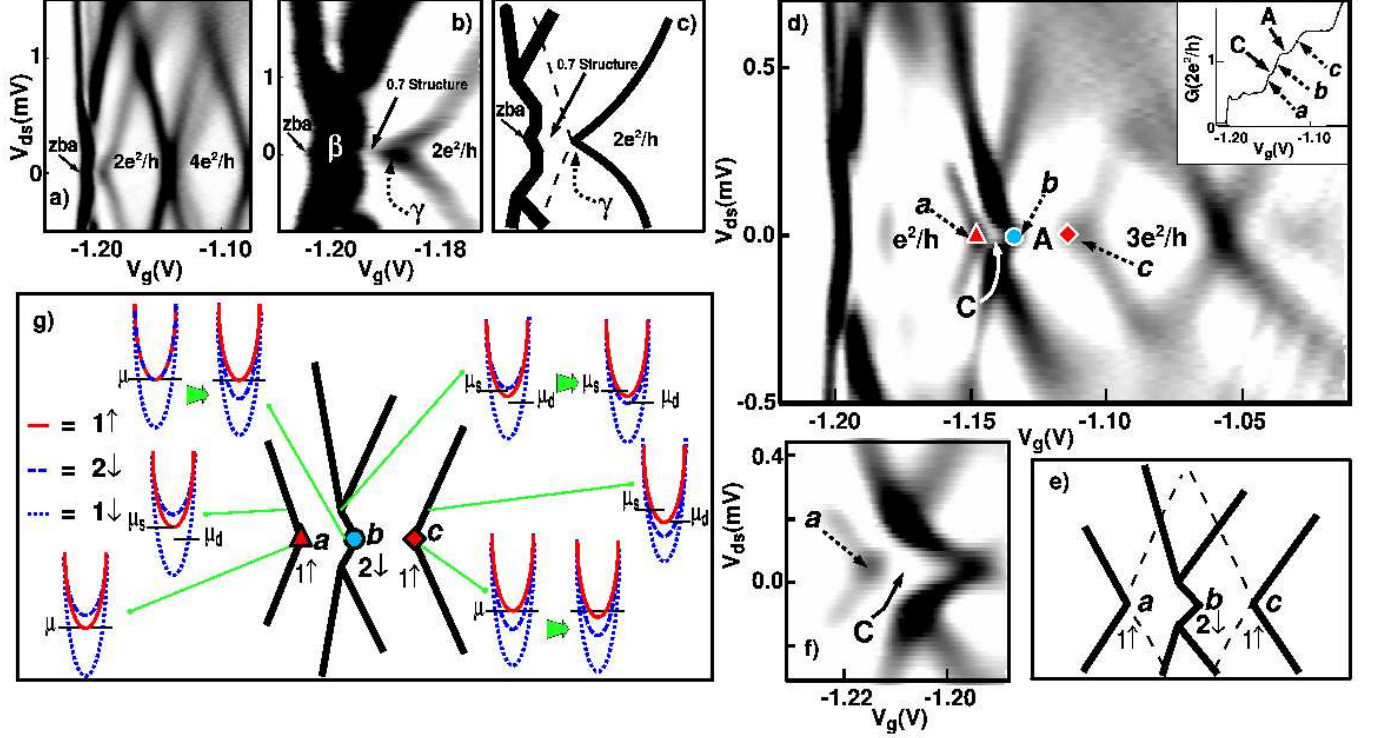


FIG. 3: (Color online) (a) Grey-scale of  $dG/dV_g$  at  $B = 0$  as a function of  $V_{ds}$ . White regions are plateaux. A close-up (b) shows that  $\gamma$ , separating the  $0.7$  structure from  $2e^2/h$ , does not split in  $V_{ds}$  - the left branch is absent. This is illustrated schematically in (c), where the ‘missing left branches’ are represented by dashed lines. (d)  $V_{ds}$  data at the crossing at  $B = 9$  T. At  $V_{ds} = 0$ ,  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$  correspond to the  $1\uparrow$ ,  $2\downarrow$  and  $1\uparrow$  features marked by symbols in fig. 1.  $a$  has no right branch in  $V_{ds}$  and  $c$  has no left branch.  $b$  and  $c$  beside the analog  $A$  are equivalent to  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  beside the  $0.7$  structure in (b). Inset: Conductance trace for  $V_{ds} = 0$  at  $B = 9$  T. (e) The ‘missing branches’ for  $a$  and  $c$  are represented by dashed lines in this schematic diagram of the crossings. (f) A close-up of  $a$  and  $b$ , in data from a similar sample at 8.6 T, demonstrates that  $a$  has no right branch. (g) A schematic of (d), showing the configurations of subbands. Missing branches indicate that  $1\uparrow$  is pinned to  $\mu$  in the complement and analog regions  $A$  and  $C$  (see text).

to the right to form features  $a$  and  $c$  in fig. 3(d), whilst  $2\downarrow$  causes feature  $b$ . At  $V_{ds} = 0$ , points marked with coloured symbols correspond to the symbols in fig. 1(a), and the alternation between  $1\uparrow$  (feature  $a$ ),  $2\downarrow$  (feature  $b$ ) and  $1\uparrow$  (feature  $c$ ) again, indicates that  $1\uparrow$  and  $2\downarrow$  rearrange as they populate. Feature  $a$  at the left edge of the complement structure  $C$  has no right branch in  $V_{ds}$  — see the closeup in fig. 3(f), and the schematic in fig. 3(e) in which the absent right branch is represented with a dashed line. Feature  $c$ , on the right of the analog  $A$ , has no left branch, and is equivalent to  $\gamma$  in the region of the  $0.7$  structure in fig. 3(b); feature  $b$  is equivalent to  $\beta$ . In short, whereas the spin-down feature  $b$  splits into two branches with increasing  $V_{ds}$ , the spin-up features  $a$  and  $c$  do not split and only have one branch, either right- or left-moving in  $V_{ds}$ . The absence of these branches cannot be understood in a non-interacting electron picture.

#### A. Missing branches in the bias spectroscopy data indicates ‘pinning’ of spin-up subbands

The missing branches can be explained by a combination of two mechanisms — the abrupt rearranging of the spin-up and spin-down subbands, together with simultaneous pinning of the spin-up subband to  $\mu$ . In figs. 3(d), (e) and (g), in finite  $V_{ds}$ ,  $1\uparrow$  intercepts  $\mu_s$  at the left-moving branch of feature  $a$ , as illustrated by the schematic diagrams of subbands in fig. 3(g). At  $V_{ds} = 0$ ,  $\mu_s$  is the same as  $\mu$ , so  $1\uparrow$  intercepts  $\mu$  at  $a$ . In finite  $V_{ds}$ ,  $1\uparrow$  intercepts  $\mu_d$  at the right-moving branch from feature  $c$ . At  $V_{ds} = 0$ ,  $\mu_d$  is the same as  $\mu$ , so  $1\uparrow$  must still be at  $\mu$  at feature  $c$  —  $1\uparrow$  reaches  $\mu$  at  $a$ , and remains close to  $\mu$  until feature  $c$ . In other words, for the left and right branches of  $1\uparrow$  ( $a$  and  $c$ ) to be separated by such a large range in  $V_g$ , then at  $V_{ds} = 0$ ,  $1\uparrow$  must pin to  $\mu$  from point  $a$  until point  $c$  throughout the regions of the analog and complement. Thus, missing branches on the V-shaped features in the DC-bias data lead directly



to the conclusion that spin-up subbands pin close to the chemical potential over a range of gate-voltages.

### B. The contrasting behaviour of spin-up and spin-down subbands, and their rearranging in energy at the crossings

Unlike the  $1\uparrow$  subband,  $2\downarrow$  does not pin to  $\mu$ . Also using DC-bias spectroscopy, we have found that spin-down subbands do not give a simple V-shaped feature in  $V_{ds}$  [26]. The form of feature **b** for  $2\downarrow$  in fig. 3(d), (e) and (g) is typical of spin-down subbands in general. The two branches of the V are not individually resolvable until a certain  $V_{ds}$ , here 0.1 mV, has been reached — it is as if the expected V-shaped feature has been ‘collapsed’ along the  $V_g$  axis, so the left and right-branches lie on top of each other until  $V_{ds} = 0.1$  mV. This implies the exact opposite behaviour for spin-down subbands than for spin-up — it implies that spin-down subbands populate very abruptly, passing through both  $\mu_s$  and  $\mu_d$  within a very narrow gate-voltage range, even when  $\mu_s$  and  $\mu_d$  are separated in energy by more than 0.1 mV, and in some cases, as much as 0.5 mV [26]. In contrast, for spin-up subbands, it is as if the expected V-shaped feature has been ‘stretched’ along the  $V_g$  axis, so the left and right-branches lie far apart from each other in gate-voltage, indicating that spin-up subbands populate very gradually.

Since  $2\downarrow$  populates abruptly at **b**,  $1\uparrow$  and  $2\downarrow$  also rearrange in energy between the complement **C** and analog **A** regions, but with  $1\uparrow$  remaining pinned throughout. This rearranging resembles the exchange-driven magnetic phase-transitions predicted for Landau-level crossings [20, 22, 23], and the combination of pinning of spin-up subbands with a sudden drop in energy of spin-down subbands provides an explanation [26] for why the 0.7 structure and analogs, and spin-down features in general [27], remain visible at surprisingly high temperatures.

### V. PINNING OF SPIN-UP SUBBANDS IS THE PHENOMENOLOGICAL ORIGIN OF THE NON-QUANTIZED 0.7, COMPLEMENT AND ANALOG STRUCTURES

Pinning of  $1\uparrow$  also explains the non-quantized conductances of the complement and analog (fig 4(a)). At  $T > 0$ , a subband,  $N\sigma$ , lying close to  $\mu$  gives a conductance of less than  $e^2/h$ , because (ignoring tunnelling and reflection)  $G_{N\sigma} = G_0 f(\Delta E, T)$  where  $G_0 = e^2/h$  and  $f$  is the Fermi function,  $T$  is temperature and  $\Delta E$  is the energy difference between  $\mu$  and the bottom of the  $N\sigma$  subband. If  $1\uparrow$  populates only partially at the complement structure and pins close to  $\mu$  over a range of gate-voltages, then the conductance of this subband,  $G_{1\uparrow}$ , will be non-quantized and less than  $e^2/h$ , i.e., the total conductance of the complement structure  $G_{\text{complement}} = G_{1\downarrow} + G_{1\uparrow} = e^2/h + fe^2/h < 2e^2/h$ . In earlier work [26], we demon-

strated that in contrast to spin-up subbands, spin-down subbands populate very abruptly and do not pin to  $\mu$ . We also know from fig. 1(a) that  $2\downarrow$  populates between the complement and analog structures. Thus, a quantized increase of  $G_{2\downarrow} \sim e^2/h$  is expected when  $2\downarrow$  populates, and  $G_{\text{analog}} = G_{1\downarrow} + G_{2\downarrow} + G_{1\uparrow} = e^2/h + e^2/h + fe^2/h < 3e^2/h$ , i.e., the analog conductance is  $\sim e^2/h$  greater than the complement conductance throughout the crossing region, because of the population of  $2\downarrow$  between the two structures. Above the analog,  $1\uparrow$  goes from being partially to fully populated, giving an increase in  $G$  of less than  $e^2/h$ , and a total quantized conductance of  $3e^2/h$ .

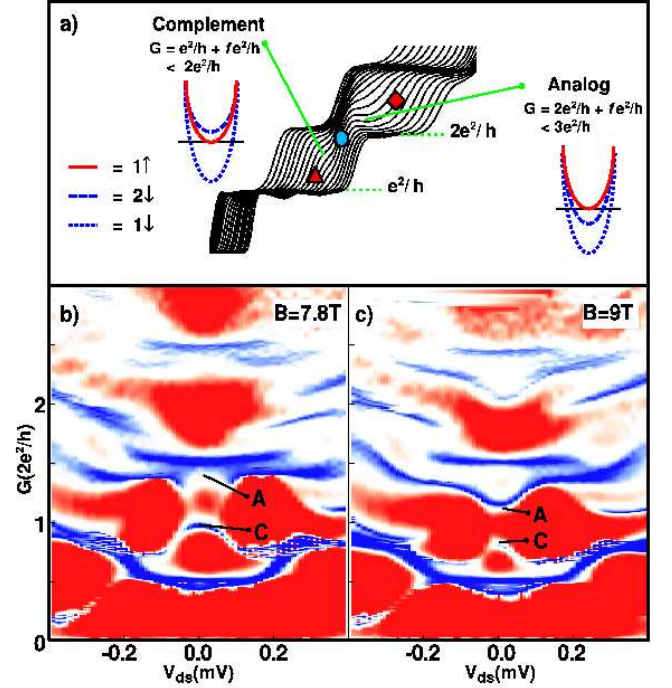


FIG. 4: (Color) (a) Conductance traces from fig. 1(a) with schematics illustrating how pinning of  $1\uparrow$  explains the complement and analog. Again, symbols indicate rises in conductance that correspond to features in figs. 1 and 3(d) and (g). (b)  $dG/dV_g$  as a function of  $G$  and  $V_{ds}$  at the crossing at  $B = 7.8$  T. Blue indicates plateaux, red indicates abrupt changes in  $G$  with  $V_g$  and white indicates slowly changing  $G$ . (c) Similar data for  $B = 9$  T (also the data used to make fig. 3(d)). From 7.8 T to 9 T, the analog, **A**, strengthens as  $G_{\text{analog}}$  decreases, and the complement, **C**, weakens as  $G_{\text{complement}}$  decreases.  $G_{\text{complement}}$  and  $G_{\text{analog}}$  change immediately in finite  $V_{ds}$ , unlike the quantized  $1.5(2e^2/h)$  plateau which remains at fixed  $G$  until it disappears at  $V_{ds} \sim \pm 0.2$  mV.

We can perform similar analysis for the 0.7 structure at  $B = 0$  by considering  $1\downarrow$  and  $1\uparrow$  instead of  $2\downarrow$  and  $1\uparrow$ . Near the crossing,  $2\downarrow$  and  $1\uparrow$  cannot be degenerate when they first populate because we can resolve both features **a** and **b**. However, fig. 3(b) at  $B = 0$  has no equivalent to feature **a**, thus  $1\downarrow$  and  $1\uparrow$  are degenerate when they first populate. Just as the subbands at the crossing

rearrange in energy abruptly, at  $B = 0$ , the degeneracy between  $1\downarrow$  and  $1\uparrow$  is abruptly lifted as they populate —  $1\downarrow$  drops suddenly in energy [26] to give  $\beta$ , whilst  $1\uparrow$  pins to  $\mu$  between  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$ , giving non-quantized conductance (as first proposed by Kristensen *et al.* [10]), before populating fully at  $\gamma$ . Below the onset of V-shaped splitting from  $\beta$  (for  $V_{ds} < 0.3$  mV), there is no left branch from  $\gamma$  because  $1\downarrow$  and  $1\uparrow$  pass through  $\mu_s$  together; the missing left branch from  $1\uparrow$  is part of feature  $\beta$ , and is separated from the  $1\uparrow$  right branch at  $\gamma$  by finite  $V_g$  because the subband is pinned.

$G_{\text{complement}}$  and  $G_{\text{analog}}$  immediately change with  $V_{ds}$  (fig. 4(a), (b) and (c)) [34]. The analog **A** at  $B = 9$  T rises with increasing  $V_{ds}$  from  $1.15(2e^2/h)$  to  $\sim 1.35(2e^2/h)$ , just as the 0.7 structure rises to  $\sim 0.85(2e^2/h)$  in finite bias (see refs. [25, 28]), whereas  $G_{\text{complement}}$  decreases with increasing  $V_{ds}$ . This is in stark contrast to the behaviour of quantized plateaux: for example, the  $3e^2/h$  plateau in fig. 4(c) remains at the same  $G$  with increasing  $V_{ds}$  until it disappears. Quantized plateaux do not change conductance in  $V_{ds}$  because, by definition, they occur when the subband edge is some way below  $\mu$ . Therefore for moderate  $V_{ds}$ , the subband still lies well below  $\mu_s$  and  $\mu_d$  and  $G$  will be unaffected by the energy gap between  $\mu_s$  and  $\mu_d$ . The change in  $G_{\text{complement}}$  and  $G_{\text{analog}}$  at small  $V_{ds}$  is consistent with  $1\uparrow$  pinning close to  $\mu$  at those features.

## VI. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

It has been proposed that the rise in  $G$  of the 0.7 structure with decreasing  $T$  may relate to the Kondo effect [12]. The basis for this theory is the ‘zero-bias anomaly’ (ZBA), a peak in  $G$  at  $V_{ds} = 0$ , similar to that observed in quantum dots [29]. We routinely observe such ZBAs at  $B = 0$ , which, in a greyscale diagram such as fig. 3(b), take the form of a narrow pointed feature in the pinch-off voltage at  $V_{ds} = 0$  (marked **zba** in figs. 3(b) and (c) and indicated by an arrow). However, we have not observed zero-bias anomalies in the conductance at the crossings, despite the presence of the analog structures. Analogs rise in conductance and disappear with decreasing  $T$  — if the disappearance of the analog and its large conductance enhancement at low  $T$  were due to the Kondo effect, then the enhanced conductance would be destroyed by  $V_{ds}$ , and hence, a ZBA would occur. The absence of any ZBA implies that Kondo physics is not the main cause of the enhanced  $G$  associated with the 0.7 structure and analog variants at low  $T$ .

The phenomenological theory that spin-up subbands pin to  $\mu$ , but spin-down do not, provides a consistent interpretation for virtually all the characteristics of the 0.7 structure ‘family’. As previously observed [10], pinning of a spin-up subband slightly below  $\mu$  can explain why the 0.7 structure is typically absent at low  $T$ , but appears and decreases in  $G$  as  $T$  rises — this also applies to

the analogs at crossings. This is not, however, the only  $T$  regime associated with the 0.7 structure. In fact, the 0.7 structure only decreases in  $G$  with increasing  $T$  if it is above  $\sim 0.6(2e^2/h)$  at low  $T$  — this depends on confining potential, which can be modified by applying a negative voltage to a ‘midline’ gate [30], or by using a scanning probe tip [14]. It was observed that the 0.7 structure sits below  $0.6(2e^2/h)$  for negative midline voltages, and certain scanning probe positions, and *rises* in  $G$  with increasing  $T$ . The same  $T$  dependence is observed in an in-plane  $B$  field — once the 0.7 structure has moved below  $\sim 0.6(2e^2/h)$  due to the  $B$  field, it also rises in  $G$  with increasing  $T$  [9]. In other words, there is a crossover from one  $T$  regime to the other, and a low  $T$  conductance of  $\sim 0.6(2e^2/h)$  marks the crossover. These two  $T$  regimes also exist for the analog with a ‘crossover’ conductance of  $\sim 1.2(2e^2/h)$  in that case [7]. This second  $T$  regime is also consistent with pinning and corresponds to the spin-up subband pinning slightly *above*  $\mu$ . In addition, at the distinct crossover in  $B$  between the two  $T$  regimes,  $G$  is invariant with  $T$ . This is consistent with the subband pinning *exactly* at  $\mu$ . The rearranging of spin-up and spin-down subbands is also compatible with pinning of spin-up subbands. Taken together, rearranging and pinning explain the presence of *two* non-quantized structures in the crossing region (the complement and analog), their  $V_{ds}$  characteristics, and why these non-quantized structures are separated by a quantized conductance.

Additional evidence in support of our interpretation is that similar  $V_{ds}$  analysis applied to spin-down subbands explains why the 0.7 structure survives high temperatures [26], and explains other spin-asymmetries [27]. Furthermore, pinning was suggested as an explanation for the unusual thermopower signature of the 0.7 structure [31], and it is also consistent with the 0.7 structure shot-noise [32] signature.

To conclude, we have used DC-bias spectroscopy to study the rearranging of spin-split subbands at crossings. Our results provide *direct* evidence that spin-up subbands pin to  $\mu$  in the region of the analog and complement structures, and the 0.7 structure. This, combined with the formation of a spin gap [10, 11] and the abrupt drop in energy of the spin-down subband [26] explains the non-quantized conductances of these features, their temperature dependences, and the shot-noise [32] and thermopower [31] signatures of the 0.7 structure. As yet, there is no theory that explains why spin-up subbands should pin in this way at crossings and  $B = 0$ . We hope that the evidence in this paper will provide the stimulus for theoretical work in this direction.

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- [33] Between taking the fig. 1 data and the figs. 2 and 3 data, the pinch-off voltage changed by  $\sim 0.07$  V. We have added  $0.07$  V to  $V_g$  in fig. 1 to aid comparison with the other figures. The change in the device also caused the crossing to shift by  $-0.5$  T, so the features in fig. 2 compare better to  $B = 9.5$  T in fig. 1, rather than 9 T.
- [34] A linear correction was added to the data in fig. 4(b) and (c) to allow better resolution of features at both high and low  $G$ .